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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology
and Related Financial Issues
First session
Geneva, 18 November 1996
Agenda items 3 and 4

DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT: INTERACTION BETWEEN INVESTMENT AND TRADE AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES RELATED TO COMPETITION LAW OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO DEVELOPMENT

Draft agreed conclusions

Focus of future work

1. The Commission encourages UNCTAD to continue to promote dialogue among development partners, including at the regional level.

2. The Commission recommends continued efforts by the secretariat to improve its collection of investment and related data, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and national governments, as well as the harmonization, standardization and dissemination of such data.

3. The Commission recognizes the need expressed by many developing countries, in particular LDCs, for empirical studies to shed further light on the impact on development of liberalizing domestic investment regimes.

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4. Noting that several countries have agreed to undertake investment policy reviews, as well as science, technology and innovation policy reviews, the Commission looks forward to receiving these reviews in order to familiarize other Governments and the international private sector with their results.

5. The Commission appreciates the utility and analytical quality of the World Investment Report.

6. The Commission invites contributions to support UNCTAD's programme with extrabudgetary resources, especially for technical assistance and for projects involving LDCs and countries in Africa, and expresses its appreciation to those countries that have already done so.

7. The Commission welcomes the work of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and calls for continued collaboration with WAIPA in promoting the exchange of experiences on investment promotion practices.

8. The Commission:

(a) Endorses the recommendations of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy;

(b) Takes note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) and takes no decision on the recommendations therein; and

(c) Takes note of the Chairperson's stated intention to request the President of the Trade and Development Board to undertake consultations to resolve the deadlock over the issue of expert-level activity.

9. The Commission agrees to convene:

(a) A meeting on competition law and policy, as called for in the report of the Expert Meeting on Competition Law and Policy;

(b) A meeting to examine and review existing agreements on investment, taking into account the interests of developing countries, and bearing in mind the work undertaken by other organizations, in pursuance of the mandate of paragraph 89 (b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" to identify and analyse implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment;

(c) A meeting on investment promotion and suggested measures in this respect that further development objectives.